

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03932 01 OF 02 011103Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123012 011109Z /23

O P 011010Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5932
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3932

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, JO, EG, US, XF
SUBJECT: SADAT LETTER TO HUSSEIN

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SENT A LETTER TO HUSSEIN REPORTING FROM THE EGYPTIAN PERSPECTIVE AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO AND HIS TALKS WITH SADAT. SADAT'S HINIAN RIGHTS, U.S. REQUIREMENT TO PUSH BEGIN AND TO STAND FIRM AGAINST ISRAELIS ON ITS OWN POSITIONS. PRINCIPAL U.S. VIEW WHICH SADAT REPORTED WAS THAT NOW IS TIME TO FOCUS ON BROADENING THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE ADDITION OF OTHER ARAB PARTNERS "HEADED BY JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS" AND THIS WAS WHAT U.S. WOULD CONCENTRATE ON DURING THIS PHASE. KING SAID HE AGREED FULLY WITH ALL OF SADAT'S SUBSTANTIVE POINTS AND ASKED ABOUT A REPORT FROM THE U.S. SIDE. END SUMMARY

1. HUSSEIN WAS HANDED, PART WAY THROUGH A CONVERSATION WITH HIM APRIL 30 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, TWO PIECES OF PAPER BY CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL WHO MOST UNCHARACTERISTICALLY INTERRUPTED MY TALK WITH HUSSEIN. KING WAS TOLD ONE PAPER WAS A MESSAGE FROM JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO (SEE BELOW)

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SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03932 01 OF 02 011103Z

WHILE OHE SECOND WAS A FIVE OR SIX-PAGE XEROX COPY OF A LETTER FROM SADAT TO HUSSEIN REPORTING ON THE RECENT VISIT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON.

2. KING THEN READ ME THE SADAT LETTER IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION. SADAT MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS, PRINCIPAL ONES OF WHICH FOLLOW:

A) EGYPT STANDS FOR FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY. ISRAELIS MUST AGREE
EXPLICITLY TO THIS IN ANY DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

?) EGYPT ALSO INSISTS ON PALESTINIANS OBTAINING
THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS.

C) U.S. CURRENT POSITION SHOULD BE TO STAND FIRM IN
FACE OF COMING BEGIN MEETWNG. ANY WAVERING
OR SUGGESTIONS OF COMPROMISE WILL MERELY ENCOURAGE
ISRAELIS TO DEMAND MORE;

D) U.S. HAS COMMITTED ITSELF IN THIS PHASE TO EGYPT TO
FOCUS ON EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARAB
SIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS, TO BE HEADED BY ADDING
JORDAN AND PALESTINIANS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SUITABLY-WORDED DECLARATION;

E) SADAT IS COMMITTED TO AN OVERALL SETTLE-
MENT AND TO ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR SUCH
IN ORDER TO GET OTHER ARAB PARTIES TO JOIN WITH
HIM IN PURSUING THIS AND (LETTER APPEARED
CAREFULLY TO AVOID ANY COMMITMENT ABOUT EGYPT NOT
GOING ALONE).

F) BEGIN WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS VIEWS UNLESS
THE U.S. STOOD FIRM AND PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON
HIM.

G) EGYPT FAVORED A TRANSITIONAL REGIME ON
THE WEST BANK--AFTER WHICH THE PALESTINIAN COULD
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 03932 01 OF 02 011103Z

EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
REGARDING THEIR OWN FUTURE;

H) EGYPT AGREED TO THE CREATION OF STRONG
LINKS BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS IN
THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, A STEP THAT WOULD
REINFORCE THE ELEMENT OF SECURITY IN ANY ARRANGEMENT;

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SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03932 02 OF 02 011114Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3932

EXDIS

I) IN SUM, EGYPT FELT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY
TO RETURN TO THE POSITION OF 1967; ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
TO THE 1967 LINES WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY
FOR ALL;

J) NO ONE COULD PRETEND TO REPRESENT THE
PALESTINIANS BUT THEMSELVES; THEY SHOULD DECIDE
THEIR OWN FUTURE;

K) IN CLOSING, SADAT STATED THAT ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAD TO TAKE
PLACE TO ASSURE THE SOVEREIGNTY THERE OF THE
ARABS, THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE, NO LIQUIDATION
OF THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE IN THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORY--INLTHEIR OWN LAND;

L) SIMILARLY, JERUSALEM AND ALL THE ANNEXED
TERRITORY WAS PART OTLOHE WEST BANK AND MUST BE
EVACUATED BY THE ISRAELIS;

M) THE U.S. MUST PUT CONTINUING PRESSURE ON
ISRAEL AND THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT TO REALIZE THESE
POINTS OF VIEW;

N) THE BEGIN PLAN IS UNACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT
BECAUSE IT DOES NOT END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION
NOR PROVIDE FOR THE RETURN OF TERRITORY; IT
CANNOT BE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION;

O) THERE IS NO REASON FOR JORDAN (OR THE
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03932 02 OF 02 011114Z

PALESTINIANS) TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW (PRESUMABLY
IN ADVANCE OF A SUITABLY-WORDED DECLARATION);

P) FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL IS READY TO VISIT
THE U.S.;

Q) WITH THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY THROUGH THE
U.S. SENATE, THE U.S. HAS TOLD EGYPT THAT IT IS PREPARED AGAIN
TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO THE MIDDLE EAST;

R) THE AIRPLANE PACKAGE DEAL IS A MOST IMPORTANT
STEP IN THE PROCESS OF FINDING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

S) U.S. WAS INTERESTED, ACCORDING TO SADAT LETTER,
IN GETTING A CLEAR AND FULL ARAB POSITION DEVELOPED ON THE WEST
BANK AS A COUNTERPOISE TO BEGIN PLAN. SADAT
LETTER HINTS AT BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO ASK SPECIFICALLY,
FOR A JORDANIAN VIEWPOINTUK

T) SADAT ALSO MENTIONED FACT THAT HE WAS SENDING WRITTEN

AND ORAL MESSAGES VIA ATHERTON TO PRESIDENT CARTER SETTING FORTH
THE EGYPTIAN POSITION.

3. AT THE END OF THE READING OF THE LETTER, THE
KING ASKED ME WHETHER I THOUGHT THIS WAS WHAT
REALLY TOOK PLACE AT THE MEETINGS. I SAID I HAD NO
WAY NOW OF KNOWING BUT THAT CLEARLY THE LETTER
INCLUDED A GREAT DEAL ON THE EGYPTIAN POSITION.
THESE SORTS OF COMMUNICATIONS GENERALLY TENDED
TO REFLECT THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE AUTHOR.
HE SAID IN REPLY HE HOPED WE COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH
A REPORT OF THE CONVERSATIONS AS WE SAW THEM. I
ASKED HIM WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING IN THE
EGYPTIAN POSITION AS SETLDOWN IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S
LETTER WITH WHICH HE DISAGREED. HE SAID NO THERE
WAS NOTHING WITH WHICH HE DISAGREED.

4. SECOND MESSAGE (PARA 1 ABOVE) WAS CABLE
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SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 03932 02 OF 02 011114Z

FROM JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO STATING THAT
CONTACTS OF HIS CLOSE TO USAMA AL BAZ, WHOM KING
THOUGHT TO BE UNDERSECRETARY IN THE EGYPTIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WERE TELLING
JORDANIANS THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE NOW PREPARING
FOR A MILITARY PUSH INTO NORTHERN JORDAN AND
SYRIA ALONG THE LINES OF THEIR MOVE INTO
SOUTH LEBANON. THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO
ESTABLISH A NEW TERRITORIAL BASIS (NOT 242) FOR THE
NEGOTIATIONS. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HAD NOT
BEEN ABLE TO REACH AL BAZ DIRECTLY TO CONFIRM THIS
POINT AND KING PUT MESSAGE ASIDE AFTER READING
IT TO ME WITH NO COMMENT OR REQUEST FOR FOLLOW-UP.
I PRESUME SINCE I HAVE SEEN NOTHING ON THIS
SCORE, THAT KING'S ACTION IN TREATING IT AS
OF NO ACCOUNT WAS CORRECT AND WOULD APPRECIATE

CONFIRMATION OF THIS POINT FROM DEPARTMENT SO
THAT I CAN PASS ON SOME FURTHER REASSURANCE TO HUSSEIN.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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